Easement on Courtroom #5

14,4,41 0300 90000p

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

			•	
NAME				
E. Santa	altimore County Cou	rthouse		
AND/OR COMMON		-		
LOCATION	Ţ			
STREET & NUMBER	gton Avenue		2nd Congressiona	l District
CITY, TOWN	9 001. 11.01.10		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRI	
Towson		VICINITY OF	4th Councilmanic	District
state Maryland			Baltimore	
E CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY DISTRICT X_BUILDING(S) STRUCTURESITEOBJECT	OWNERSHIP X_PUBLIC PRIVATEBOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITIONIN PROCESSBEING CONSIDERED	STATUS ***COCCUPIED	PRES _AGRICULTURE _COMMERCIAL _EDUCATIONAL _ENTERTAINMENT _SOVERNMENT _INDUSTRIAL _MILITARY	ENT USE MUSEUMPARKPRIVATE RESIDENCERELIGIOUSSCIENTIFICTRANSPORTATIONOTHER
11-CITIE	FPROPERTY more County ffice of Central Se	ervices	Telephone #: 49	4-3855
	County Courts Build	ding, 401 Bos		in code
CITY. TOWN TOWSO	n	VICINITY OF	Maryland	~
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS	N OF LEGAL DESCR		Liber #: HMF Folio #: 62 (9 1854)
STREET & NUMBER	401 Bosley Aver	nue		
CITY, TOWN	Towson	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	state Maryland	21204
REPRESE	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEY		
TITLE	County Courthouse			ric Places
CATE October 2	7. 1972	X_FEDERAL	LSTATECOUNTYLOCA	L
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	U.S. Department of	f the Interio	r	
CITY. TOWN	Washington		STATE D.C. 20	240
				

XEXCELLENT.

__GOOD

__FAIR

CONDITION

__DETERIORATED

__UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

__UNALTERED

X_ALTERED

MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Baltimore County Courthouse has evolved over the years into one of the few H-plan buildings, public or private, in the State; nor are such buildings common across the nation. Despite several remodelings and additions, the Greek-Revival influence on the east facade remains strong. The small-town concept of the original village has gradually been overwhelmed by the inevitable expansion of Baltimore County which is ever increasing.

The green, tree-shaded lawn adds to the cityscape of the Courthouse square in contrast to the multi-story, late 1960's office buildings around the perimeter of the lawn.

Finished in the year 1855, the original sandstone and marble Baltimore County Courthouse in Towson, Maryland was an impressive rectangular block, two stories in height and nine bays in length. The east facade was embellished with a two-story Greek Revival porte-cochere with a pediment supported by fluted Doric columns. The large windows of both the first and second floor levels were enhanced by a narrow, coved stone lintel with a decorative croisette. At a later date, the shallow "A" frame roof of the main block was crowned with a centered, eight-windowed, pilastered, frame cupola bearing a domed copper roof. All of these original exterior treatments are preserved intact (1971).

In 1910, two-story additions were built at the north and south ends respectively, slightly recessed back from the facade (east) wall of the original structure, a successful carry-over of the classical character of the building. It was also at this time that a rear (west) one-story wing was added to the west, giving the structure an overall T-plan.

Later remodeling was completed in 1925, including raising the west wing to two full stories and extending it almost twice its original length. In 1958, the final stage of the present form was completed. This involved the erection of a massive three-story rectangular block at the once exposed end of the 1910-1925 west addition, and at this time the building evolved into its present H-plan.

Baldwin and Pennington are as significant to Maryland architecture as Thomas Dixon, if not more so. They designed a variety of structures from buildings at Catholic University in Washington, to the prestigious Maryland Club in Baltimore, and to railroad stations of all sizes for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Although they can hardly be called pioneers of modern architecture, Baldwin and Pennington made a large and important contribution to the late nineteenth century architectural heritage of Maryland.

In the words of architectural historian, J. Richard Rivoire, "Further twentieth-century additions to the Baltimore County Courthouse, although architecturally undistinguished, do not interfere with the Dixon or

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

JA 36

Baldwin and Pennington facades or with the green lawn in front."

The courthouse is pleasantly situated within a park-like courthouse reen that is enjoyed frequently by visitors and townspeople alike.

Court Room No. 5 was the county's first court room where the first session was held, January 5, 1857, and this second-story room retains its 19th Century atmosphere almost unchanged, except for the installation of electricity and period replacements to replace deteriorated items. The dark woods, related accessories, and hard, straight spectator benches contribute to the total "presence" of this typical American court room of the mid-to-late 1800's. The numerous portraits form a gallery of judicial history.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	X LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULFTURE
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SGCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
× 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
<u>X</u> 1900	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	∑POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1854, the Commissioners of Baltimore County hired the architectural firm of Dixon, Balbirnie & Dixon to design a courthouse in Towson, the new county seat. (In 1851, the Maryland legislature had separated Baltimore City from the county creating two independent political units.) The cornerstone was laid on October 19, 1854; William H. Allen was building contractor.

Thomas Balbirnie left the firm a few months later. The remaining partners, Thomas Dixon and his brother James M. Dixon, continued to supervise the completion of the structure.

Thomas Dixon was a prominent architect in the Baltimore area from the 1850's until his death in 1856. His contemporaries included George A. Frederick, architect of the Baltimore City Hall and E. G. Lind, who designed the Peabody Institute. Dixon, with the assistance of his brother, drew the plans for the Baltimore City Jail (1859). Thomas Dixon's works vary from a set of proposals for Baltimore County schools, to rowhouses on Eutaw Place in Bolton Hill (1853), to the Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church (1871).

Dixon's Greek-Revival courthouse is reminiscent of Hampton House, Hampton National Historic Monument, the home of the Ridgely family about three miles to the north. The courthouse cupola is almost a direct copy of the one at Hampton. However, Dixon's cupola is much more severe in detailing in keeping with the severe style of the entire structure.

Hampton would have been a logical model for a Baltimore County Courthouse. Architecturally, no other building in the county can equal it. The Ridgely's held a prominent place in Maryland history. The 1850's owner, John Ridgely, had donated a forty-acre farm to the county.

However, the present cupola is actually the stump of a three-part, Williamsburg-like spire shown on a rare county map of c. 1855. As reported in the Baltimore County Advocate of August 8, 1863, the Commissioners had given orders "to take down the two upper sections of the courthouse steeple ..." and to "cover remaining section with tin ..." and to build a cornice.

A mysterious fire started in the clerk's office on August 24, 1861, and numerous civil dockets and papers were burned, giving rise to the suspicion that some person wished to destroy the evidence in a civil proceeding. On May 7, 1867, three men in disguise overpowered the watchman, blew pen the safe in the treasurer's office, and made off with \$13,000 in cash and securities, some of it private funds left, as was the custom, for safe-keeping by the treasurer. (Scharf, 1881, pp. 899ff)

Dixon & Dixon's courthouse served the county until the twentieth century, when the expanding county government required more space. In 1910, the Baltimore architects, E. F. Baldwin and Josias Pennington, enlarged the courthouse — almost doubling the floor space. Seven years earlier, the firm had enlarged the size of the Maryland State House in a Colonial-Revival style which compliments the original 1777 section. Baldwin and Pennington showed the same respect for old buildings in their addition to the Baltimore County Courthouse. They used the same type of stone, the same scale, identical window size and treatment.

Baldwin and Pennington extended the east facade to the north and to the south. In order to prevent one vast expanse of stone wall that would diminish the impact of the central portico, they tried to break up the east facade. At the beginning of each addition at the north and south ends of the original building, Baldwin and Pennington placed a pediment, supported by two-story pilasters, echoing the temple form of the entrance. The resulting east wall, although almost a city block long, does not overpower the central section.

The Baltimore County Union reported on May 13, 1911, that Virginia M. Burke, daughter of Judge Burke, for whom Burke Avenue is named, was to pull the rope to open the new part of the courthouse to the public. On April 28, 1912, Governor Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey, to be nominated later that year for President, spoke in the court room at Towson.

As noted under Item 7, the building was filled out to an H-plan by the additions of 1956-1958. In 1976, the land and equity records, and most court activity was moved into the large new County Courts Building located across a plaza to the west. The plaza occupies the former bed of Baltimore Avenue, one of the thoroughfares included in the donation of the original four-acre site to the public by Dr. Grafton M. Bosely in 1854.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Laws of Maryland 1853-1854. Maryland State Library, Court of Appeals Building, Annapolis

Proceedings of the Commissioners of Baltimore County, 1852-1856, Hall of Records, Annapolis

See continuation sheet

2.5

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

MGEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 expressed in deed

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

N10E 320 ft

S80E 444 ft

S10W 320 ft

N80W 444 ft

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVER LAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE None

county None

STATE

COUNTY

HIFORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE John W. McGrain (using National Register form by Mrs. Preston Parrish, J. Richard Rivoire, and Nancy Miller)

ORGANIZATION Baltimore County Office	of Planning & Zoning	DATE April 1977
STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Avenue	WAYNE L. N'FID II	TELEPHONE 494-3495
CITY OR TOWN TOWSON	HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.	STATE Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

- Scharf, T. J., History of Baltimore City and County (Philadelphia, 1881), pp. 898, 899,
- Cadoff, Morris L., The County Courthouses and Records of Maryland, Part One: The Courthouses. Annapolis: Hall of Records Commission, 1960.
- "Report of the Commissioners of Baltimore County; In Answer to Resolutions Passed by the House of Delegates January 14, 1856." House Documents F. 1856. Hall of Records, Annapolis.
- "Office of the Clerk, Circuit Court for Baltimore County" Orville T. Gosnell, Clerk. No date, pamphlet.
- Baltimore City Directories: 1849-1886. Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore. Diehlman File, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore.

Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

MHT BA-96	
STATE:	<u> </u>
Maryland	
Baltimore	
FOR NPS USE ONI	_ Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

					ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	_
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	AND OR HISTORICE Raltimo	re County (Courthous	e			
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	Towson						
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3.	CLASSIFICATION	T			1	ACCESSIBLE	
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		X Public	Public Acquisition		Occupied	Yes:	
	☐ District ☑ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure	Privote	☐ In Proc		Unoccupied	Restricted	Ì
	Object	Both	Being (Considered	Preservation work		q
	Object		•		in progress	☐ No	
	PRESENT USE (Check One or M	fore as Appropriate)			1	<u> </u>	
			Pork		Tronsportation	Comments	
		dustriol [Privote Resider		Other (Specify)		_
	ļ 	litary []	Religious				_
	☐ Entertainment ☐ Mu	useum [Scientific				
4.	OWNER OF PROPERTY						
<u> </u>	OWNER'S NAME:			-			I Z
	Baltimore County	, Maryland	(SEE CO	NTINUAT	TION SHEET)		Maryl
	STREET AND NUMBER:	0 11	r.r = = 1= 2 =				12
	Baltimore County	Courtnous	e, wasnii	STATE:	enue	CODE	and
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E	TOWSON LOCATION OF LEGAL DESC	RIPTION		- 1	1		1
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	Hall of Records						. Çi
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	CITY OR TOWN:		•		mrland	24	H
	Annapolis			Mai	ryland	24	LD.
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1	DATE OF SURVEY:	19/1					1
1	DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RE	ECORDS:					
۱ <u>ـــ</u>	DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RE Maryland Histori	ECORDS:		L			
1	DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RE Maryland Histori	ical Trust		<u> </u>			
1	Maryland Histori STREET AND NUMBERS 94 College Avenu	ical Trust				Leon	-
1	DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RE Maryland Histori	ical Trust		STATE:	yland	24	

		•		(Check One)		
	Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed
CONDITION		(Check Or	1e)		(Ch	eck One)
	⊠ Alte	red	Unaltered		Moved	Original Site

The Baltimore County Courthouse is located or

The Baltimore County Courthouse is located on a city block in Towson, Maryland. It is bounded on the east by Washington Avenue, on the south by Chesapeake Avenue, on the west by Baltimore Avenue and on the north by Pennsylvania Avenue.

Finished in the year 1855, the original sandstone and marble Baltimore County Courthouse in Towson, Maryland, was an impressive rectangular block, two stories in height and nine bays in length. The east facade was embellished with a two-story Greek Revival porte-cochère with a pediment supported by fluted Doric columns. The large windows of both the first and second floor level were enhanced by a narrow, coved stone lintel with a decorative croisette. At a later date the shallow "A" frame roof of the main block was crowned with a centered, eight-windowed, pilastered, frame cupola bearing a domed copper roof. All of these original exterior treatments are preserved intact (1971).

In 1910 two-story additions were built at the north and south ends respectively, slightly recessed back from the facade (east) wall of the original structure, a successful carry-over of the classical character of the building. It was also at this time that a rear (west) one-story wing was added to the west giving the structure an overall T plan.

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The courthouse is pleasantly situated within a park-like courthouse green that is enjoyed frequently by visitors and townspeople alike.

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	🔀 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	ble and Known) 1855;	1910; 1925; 19	56-1958
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropr	iste)	
Abor iginol	Education	Political	Urbon Plonning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phim	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
★ Architecture	Londscope	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Sociol/Humon-	
Commerce	Literoture	itorion	
Communications	☐ Militory	Theoter	
Conservation	Music	☐ Tronsportation	·

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Baltimore County Courthouse has evolved over the years into one of the few "H" plan buildings, public or private, in the state; nor are they common across the nation. Despite several remodelings and having sustained several additions, the Greek-Revival influence on the east facade remains strong. The small-town concept of the original village has gradually been overwhelmed by the inevitable expansion of Baltimore County, and it is ever increasing.

The green, tree-shaded lawn adds to the cityscape of the Courthouse square in contrast to the multi-story post World War II office buildings around the perimeter of the lawn.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

In 1854 the Commissioners of Baltimore County hired the architectural firm of Dixon, Balbirnie & Dixon to design a courthouse in Towson, the new county seat. (In 1851 the Maryland legislature had separated Baltimore City from the county creating two independent political units.)

Thomas Balbirnie left the firm a few months later. The remaining partners, Thomas Dixon and his brother James M. Dixon, continued to supervise the completion of the structure.

Thomas Dixon was a prominent architect in the Baltimore area from the 1850's until his death in 1856. His contemporaries included George A. Frederick, architect of the Baltimore City Hall and E. G. Lind who designed the beabody Institute. Dixon, with the assistance of his brother who died in 1863 abruptly ending his architectural career, drew the plans for the Baltimore City Jail (1859). Thomas Dixon's works vary from a set of proposals for Baltimore County schools, to rowhouses on Eutaw Place in Bolton Hill (1853), to the Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church (1871).

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorders: J. Richard Rivoire, Maryland Historical Trust, 94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland; Nancy Miller, Historian, Maryland Historical Trust.

Baltimore City Directories. 1849-1886. Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland.

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BICIMAN TITE.	ary rana 112		SEE CON					
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NE ° "	•	"		20				
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SW 0 APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF N	OMINATED PROPER	TY:		4 acre	es	<u>'</u>		
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTI	ES FOR PROPERTIE	SOVERL	APPING ST	ATE OR C	OUNTY BO	DUNDARIE	5	
STATE:		CODE	COUNTY					COUL
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STATE:		CODE	COUNTY:					CODE
Maryland Histori street and Number: 94 College Avenu				F; *4,		Jan		1972
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12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER	CERTIFICATION		1	ANDITAN	L REGIST	ER VERI	FICATIO	N .
As the designated State Lia tional Historic Preservation 89-665). I hereby nominate in the National Register an evaluated according to the forth by the National Park level of significance of the National State Corlando Richard State Liais for Mary	ic Law clusion s been ares set amonded	Nationa	Office of		gy and His	storic Pro	exervation	
Date January 18,			Date _					

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	1

(Number all entries)

Baltimore County Courthouse

#4. OWNER OF PROPERTY continued

(contact) Mr. Dale Anderson, County Executive County Office Building 111 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

Dixon's Greek-Revival courthouse is reminiscent of Hampton House, Hampton National Historic Monument, the home of the Ridgely family about three miles to the north. The courthouse cupola is almost a direct copy of the one at Hampton. However, Dixon's cupola is much more severe in detailing in keeping with the severe style of the entire structure.

Hampton would have been a logical model for a Paltimore County Courthouse. Architecturally no other building in the county can equal it. The Ridgely's held a prominent place in Maryland history. The 1850's owner, John Ridgely, had donated a forty acre farm to the county.

Dixon & Dixon's courthouse served the county until the twentieth century, when the expanding county government required more space. In 1910 the Baltimore architects, E. F. Baldwin and Josias Pennington, enlarged the courthouse—almost doubling the floor space. Seven years earlier the firm had enlarged the size of the Maryland State House in a Colonial-Revival style which compliments the original 1777 section. Baldwin and Pennington showed the same respect for old buildings in their addition to the Baltimore County Courthouse. They used the same type of stone, the same scale, identical window size and treatment.

Baldwin and Pennington extended the east facade to the north and to the south. In order to prevent one vast expanse of stone wall that would diminish the impact of the central portico, they tried to break up the east facade. At the beginning of each addition at the north and south ends of the original building Baldwin and Pennington placed a pediment, supported by two-story pilasters, echoing the temple form of the entrance. The resulting east wall, although almost a city block long, does not overpower the central section.

Form 10-300a (July 1969) UNI' STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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COUNTY	
Baltimore	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Baltimore County Courthouse

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

Baldwin and Pennington are as significant to Maryland architecture as Thomas Dixon, if not more so. They designed a variety of structures from buildings at Catholic University in Washington, to the predigious Maryland Club in Baltimore to railroad stations of all sizes for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Although they can hardly be called pioneers of modern architecture, Baldwin and Pennington made a large and important contribution to the late nineteenth century architectural heritage of Maryland.

Further twentieth-century additions to the Baltimore County Courthouse, although architecturally undistinguished, do not interfere with the Dixon or Baldwin and Pennington facades or with the green lawn in front.

#9. REFERENCES continued

- Laws of Maryland 1853-1854. Maryland State Library, Annapolis, Maryland.
- Proceedings of the Commissioners of Baltimore County, 1852-1856. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.
- Radoff, Morris L., The County Courthouses and Records of Maryland Part One: The Courthouses. Annapolis: Hall of Records Commission, 1960.
- "Report of the Commissioners of Baltimore County; In Answer to Resolutions Passed by the House of Delegates January 14, 1856." House Documents F. 1856. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.
- "Office of the Clerk Circuit Court for Baltimore County"
 Orville T. Gosnell, Clerk. No date. pamphlet. Attached.

CDOE

005

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIO: REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

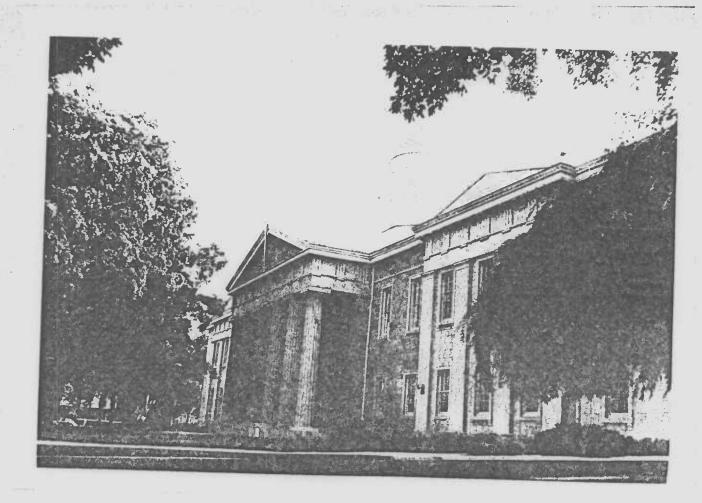
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

I TATE	
STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Z 1. NAME 0 Baltimore County Courthouse Baltimore County Courthouse AND OR HISTORIC: 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER Washington Avenue between Pennsylvania & Chesapeake Avenues \supset 04 Towson COUNTY: STATE: CODE Maryland 24 Baltimore S 3. PHOTO REFERENCE Z PHOTO CREDIT: Nancy Miller DATE OF PHOTO: July 14, 1971 NEGATIVE FILED AT: Maryland Historical Trust ш 94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 ш 4. IDENTIFICATION OESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC

East facade



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

-			
STATE			
Maryland			
COUNTY			
Baltimore			
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
ENTRY NUMBER	OATE		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

BA-96 NAME Baltimore County Courthouse COMMON: AND OR HISTORIC: Baltimore County Courthouse LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: Washington Avenue between Pennsylvania Avenue & Chesapeake Ave. CITY OR TOWN: Towson STATE: COUNTY COOE Maryland COOE Baltimore PHOTO REFERENCE PHOTO CREDIT: unknown DATE OF PHOTO: after mid-1850's, before 1910 NEGATIVE FILED AT: no negative extant; original hangs in County Executive's Office, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Md. IDENTIFICATION

Southeast facade of courthouse before additions of 1910

Reproduced on cover of pamphlet: "Office of the Clerk Circuit

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Circuit Court

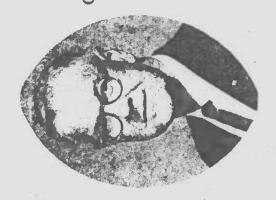
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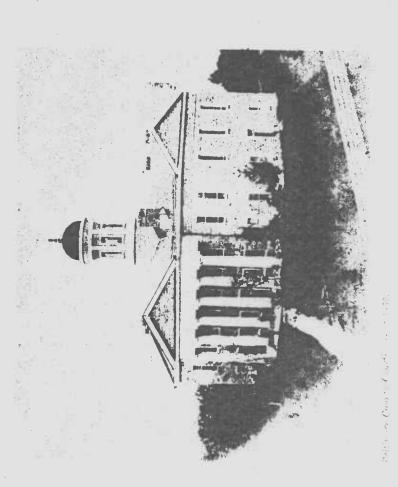
Baltimore County

Orville T. Gosnell

Clerk

OESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.





Court for Baltimore County"

Orville T. Gosnell, Clerk. n.p., c. late 1960's

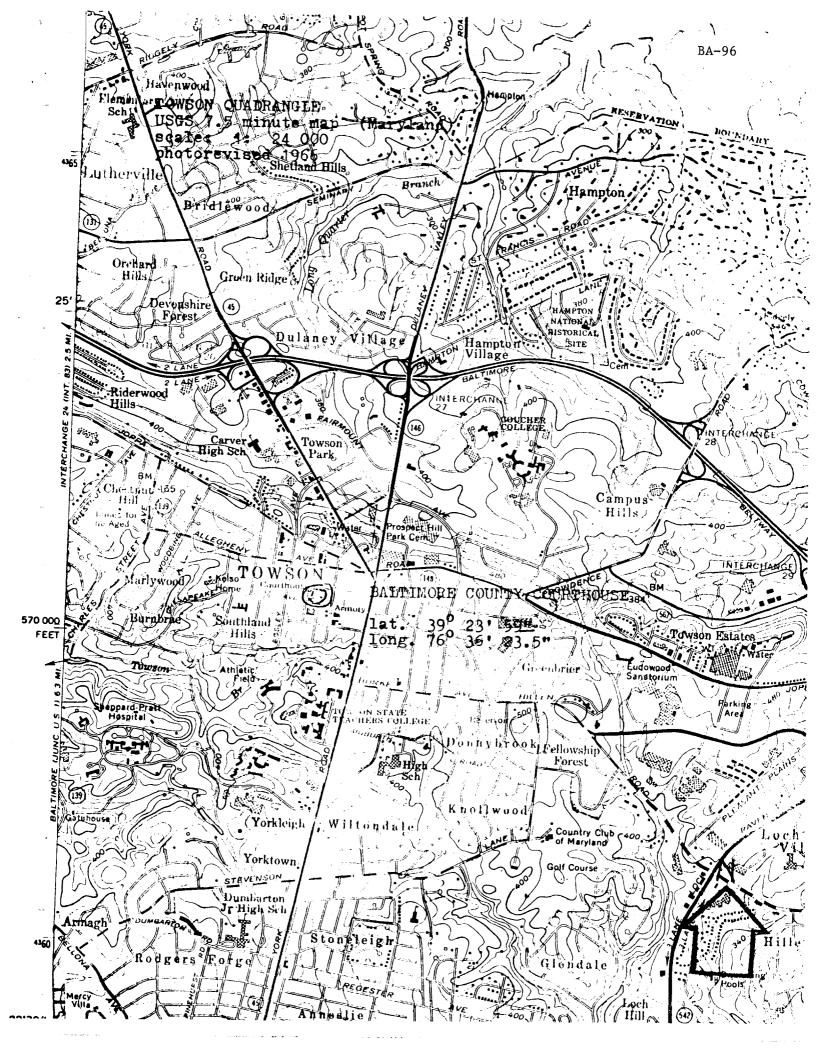
Form 10-301 (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

	to of enerose with map)	DATE			
1.	NAME				
	common: Baltimore County Courthouse				
	AND OR HISTORIC: Baltimore County Courthouse				
2.	COCATION IN THE PROPERTY OF TH				
	STREET AND NUMBER:				
	Washington Avenue between Pennsylvania Avenue and Chesapea	ıke			
	Towson	ie			
	STATE: CODE COUNTY:				
	Maryland 24 Baltimore	CODE			
3.	MAP REFERENCE	005			
	SOURCE:				
	U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map; Towson Quadrangle, Maryland				
	scale: 1:24,000				
	photorevised 1966				
4.	REQUIREMENTS				
	TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS				
	1. Property broundaries where required.				
	2. North arrow.	ļ			
	3. Latitude and longitude reference.				



Maryland
Baltimore County
District IX
Towson

BA-96 Courthouse 0300961501

1854

Built of limestone from local quarries, on five acres of land purchased from Dr. Grafton M. Bosley. Greek Revival Style - very pleasing proportions - additions in 1910, 1925, 1958.

Photo: rec'd meg 9,15.70. John he grain

(First HABS Report)
E. Frances Offutt
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 29, 1965

37.15

Court House - Towson, Baltimore County Recorded in Library of Congress

9238 1 – 1

Historians and Architect's Work Sheets BUFF Sttached

HABS-EODC

Form 2C VII.28.1959

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Architect's Work Sheet for "Photo-data Books" (Part II)

THE

Baltimore County Court House Towson, Baltimore County, Maryland

name of structure

state, county, township, locality, etc.

Original Building-2 stories

Original rectangular plan, wings added

Basement and sub-basement

additions to rear, creating T shape, Later additions formed H shaped bldg.

Stone number of stories

type wall construction

layout

Later additions-4 stories

including basement

GENERAL STATEMENT

Architectural interest and merit Original Towson Court House built in 1855 of limestone and marble-classic Greek Revival style-cupola and portico, with six massive Doric Columns-symmetrical

Condition of fabric

Excellent

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

EXTERIOR

Overall demensions Original Building 1855- 15,000 sq. feet- additions in 1905and 1910-1925and 1958 making total of 124,500 sq. feet. Old Court House renovated and modernized in 1963-64

Foundations Stone

Wall construction Stone- original Building-2'6" masonry (limestone). Additions matching stone-1'6"

Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc. Portico dominates East Facade- Six Classic Doric Columns 4' in diameter at base support the architrave and frieze above- Frieze is divided into panels engraved with 3 verticle groves-one over each column and one between in true classic style. The stone floor is of slate and marble squares laid in diagonal pattern. Chimners The stone was quarried locally at Limekiln and Beaver Dam, Stoops at side entrances flanked by smaller columns-stone steps-etc.

Chimneys- Stone 5 in all

Openings - doorways and doors Main entrance facing east and two side entrances-all with vestibules-outer and inner doors-orginally panelled wood-now glass and metal. Old doors replaced with solid wood thru out except original court room- unchanged.

 $\frac{6}{9}$ windows and shutters in original building First floor window panes $\overline{6}$, second floor $\overline{9}$ wood frames-replaced with metal when renovated. Stone trim around windows and two stone brackets beneath each sill.

Hip - Roof - Slate Roof - shape, covering

Stone . cornice eaves

> Wood cupola - metal covered - painted - small windows dormers, cupolas

INTERIOR

Floor plans (by floor)
Photostats Attached

Stairways Original Building - Cast iron- replaced by metal stair rail and terrazzo steps

Flooring Original Building - Main corridors marble, rectangles form a pattern. In additions - Terrazzo Floors

Wall and ceiling finish Main corridors marble veneer thru out - in old building plaster over stone, in new building over concrete.

Doorways and doors In original Building - recessed and wood panelled doors, plain wood thru out.

Trim No

Hardware Originally cast iron and brass - now modern

Lighting Formerly lamps and gas - 4 original chandeliers, each with 12 round milk glass globes on bronze fixture made for gas, converted to electric in old court room-all other lighting fluorescent, recessed.

Heating (fireplaces, stoves, central, etc.) Originally fire places, perhaps stoves- presently, central heating (oil) and air conditioning thru out.

Orientation (by compass reading and general setting) Court House Building faces East. Right of war in 1856 extended to York Road- now property borders on Washington Ave., to north on Pennsylvania Ave., to south on Chesapeake Ave. to west on Baltimore Ave.

Enclosures (fences, etc.) Wrought iron spiked fence encloses grounds; granite posts to support gates on four sides, originall. As building has grown, surrounding ground space has diminished and balance and proportion in original design has been Outbuildings Not any

Walks, driveways, etc. Concrete walks about the building- on three sides and leading to street. No driveways.

Landscaping, gardens, etc. Old trees - Linden line main walkway to front entrance.

Maple, pine and oak, shrubbery includes magnelia, Japanese cherry, azalea, ground cover

Prepared by E. Frances Cyfut (Ruth Somewike) of ivy :c.

Date Sept. 1965 - Sept. 21, 1966

HABS-EODC

BLUE

Form 3B		
TET T 12 1000	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY	
Historian	's Work Sheet for "Photo-data Books"	(Part I,

Name of	Structure Baltimore County Court House
Address	Washington Avenue, Towson, Baltimore County, Maryland State, county, township, locality, street address or location
Present	Owner (give address) Baltimore County
Prosent	Occupant County Government
Prosont	UscCounty Government

Brief Statement of Significance (historical): Towsontown became the County seat of Baltimore County by papular vote in 1853. A number of prominent citizens proposed giving land for the building of a court house. The Court House property was subsequently conveyed by deed on Sept. 26, 1854 from Dr. Grafton W. Bosley to the

Commissioners of Baltimore County. It was recorded on Sept. 29, 1854 in Liber H.M.F. Original and subsecuent owners #9 folio 62. It provided for a parcel of ground containing four acresand a right of way to York Road. The first session of the Court was held on Jan. 5, 1857.

Date of Erection 1855

Architect Dixon and Baldwin

Builder, suppliers, etc. William H. Allen - builder John F. Connolly - stonecutter

Original plans, construction, etc. Not available - However, the original courthouse was built to accommodate one main court (Circuit) and Orphans Court - Register of Wills - Record Office and served 45,000 population.

Motes on alterations and additions (see attached photostats)
The present Court House contains 7 Court rooms, a People's Court, Housing Court,
Assessment Office and numerous other offices. The County Office Building on
Chesapeake Avenue provides space for still more departments. A Council Chamber,
Court of Appeals, etc. and more space is needed as the county population scars to
over half a million (1966)

HISTORICAL EVENTS CONNECTED WITH STRUCTURE Following the separation of Baltimor County and Baltimore City in 1851, it became necessary to select a seat of government and construct a court house. Prior to 1854 when the cornerstone of the Court House was laid, the one previous to that had been in Baltimore (1768 on Jones Falls—*see photostat); still earlier there was a Court House at Joppatown in 1725—(see Photostat). The very first county seat was on the Bush River and most events connected with the Court House there. There have been no special historical and many prominent judges have presided there. Their portraits line the walls of the old Court Room in the original building.

A legal library of valuable books and documents collected over the past century is available to lawyers and interested persons, in the second floor of the old

Important old views (with location)

See attached photograph of Baltimore County Court House soon after it was built.

Sources of information Baltimore County Progress Report - Dept. of Public Works (with location)

History of Baltimore County-300th Anniversary- Walter B. Atkinson 1959

History of Baltimore City and Baltimore County - J. Thomas Scharf

Sidelights on the History of Baltimore County - Edwin K. Gontrum 1966

Likely sources not yet investigated Maryland Historical Society Records

Newspaper articles from County papers - The Union 1850 - The Union News purchased by The Jeffersonian in 1911 and the Maryland Journal 1865

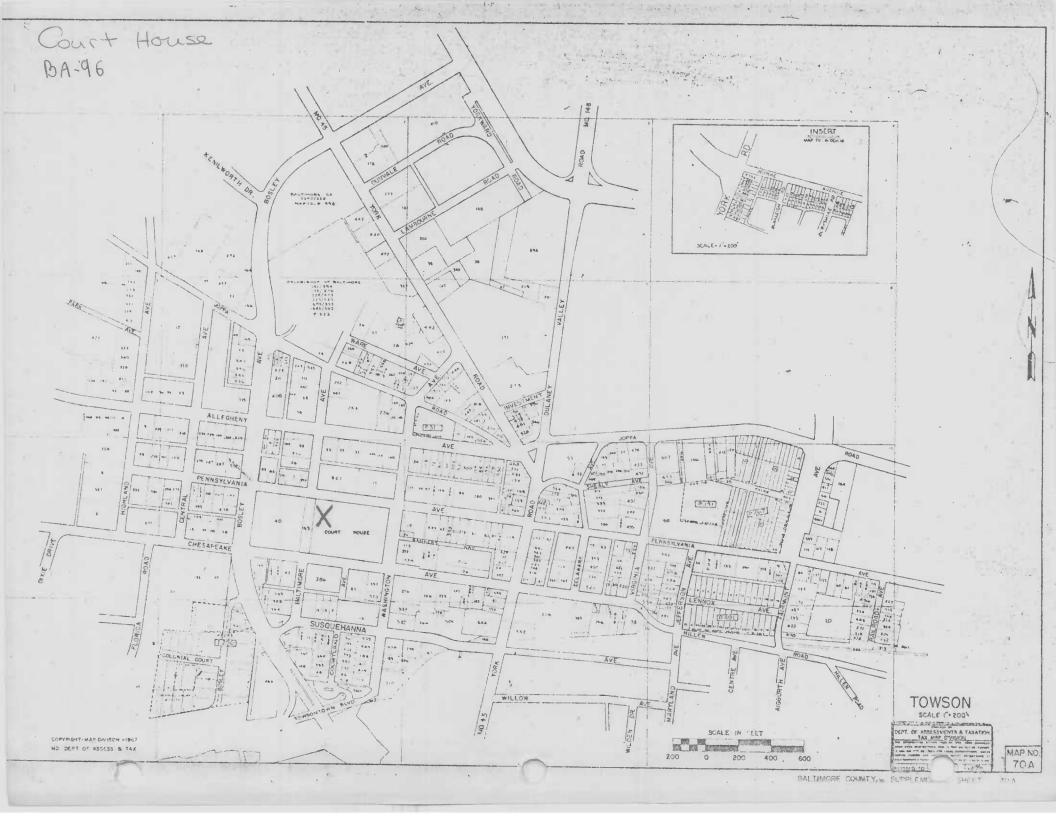
Date Sept. 1965 and Sept 21, 1966

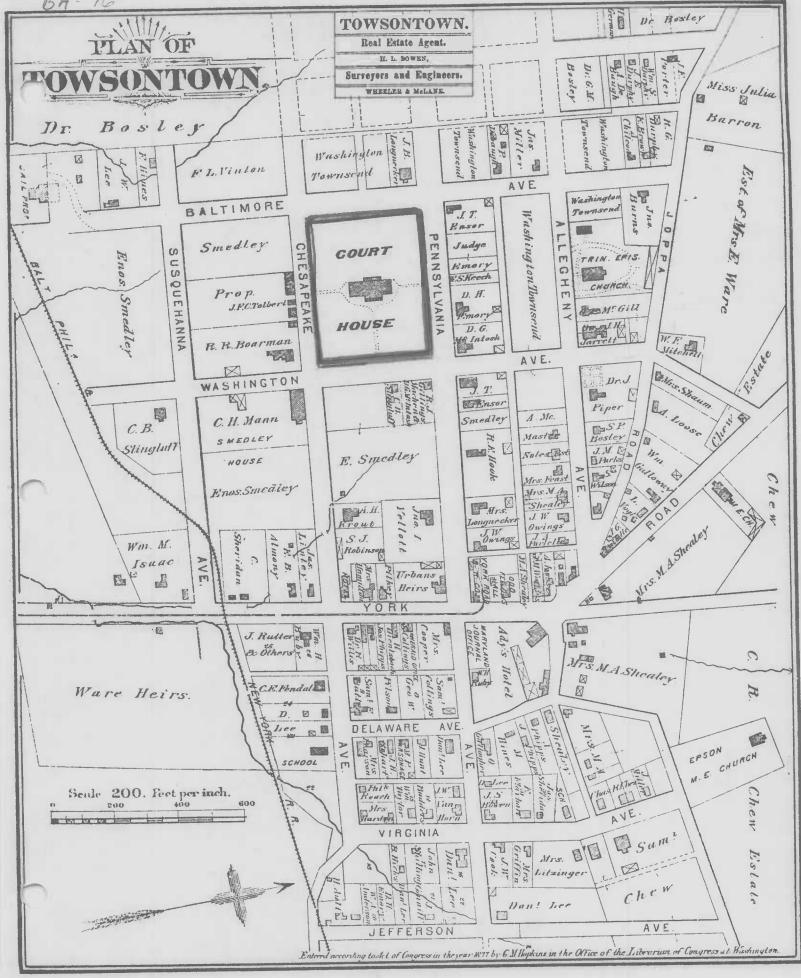
INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOCUMENTATION

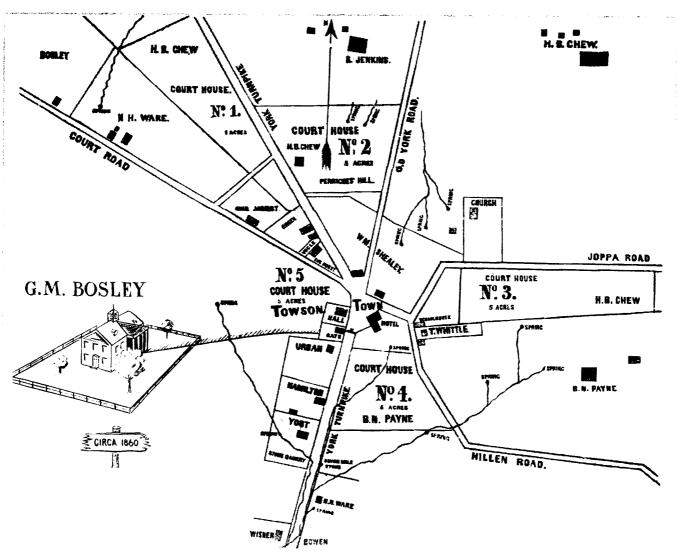
Published references: Give author's full name, exact title from title page (underlined), publisher, place of publication, date, page references. Manuscript references: Give location of manuscript and note if long-hand or typed. Cite "from," "to," date, etc.

Interviews: If information came from a personal interview, give complete name and address of informant.

CONTINUATIONS: Any of the above entries may be continued on additional sheats. Exact transcripts in quotes from pertinent documents are especially welcomed as appendices or otherwise.







In case the Voters of Baltimore County shall designate TOWSON TOWN as their County Seat of Justice, the undersigned, agree to give for the erection of a Court House and Jail for said county, a lot of ground not less than five acres, as numbered on the above Plat, from No. 1 to No. 5, inclusive—that is to say, Henry B. Chew, will give the choice of the five acres, in Lots No. 1, 2, or 3; Benj. N. Payne, will give the five acres in Lot No. 4, and Grafton M. Bosley, will give the five acres in Lot No. 5.

And we agree to leave it to the Commissioners of Baltimore County.

And we agree to leave it to the Commissioners of Baltimore County, or to any other proper authority, to determine which of the said Lots of five acres each, they will select for said purpose, and, which ever Lot may be selected, a good and sufficient Deed will be given for the use of said County.

WITNESS our hands this 14th day of December, 1853.

HENRY B. CHEW, BENJ. N. PAYNE, GRAFTON M. BOSLEY.

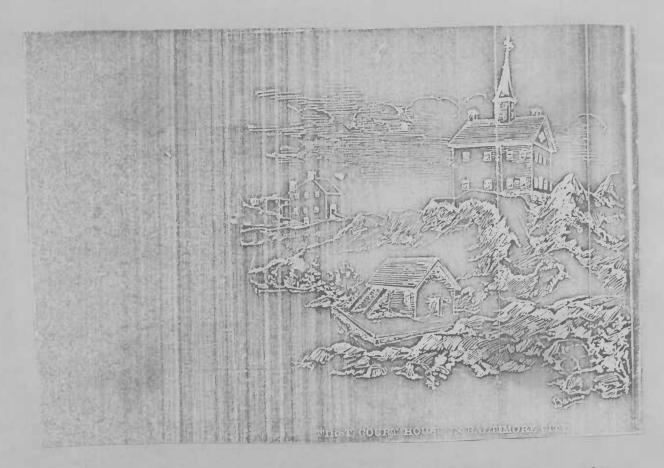
In case the Voters of Baltimore County shall designate Towson Town as their County seat of Justice, the undersigned, agree to give for the Alms House for said County, forty acres of good land, within 2 miles of said Towson Town, and to execute a good and sufficient Deed for the same.

WITNESS, my hand, this 14th day of December, 1853.

J. RIDGELY, of H.

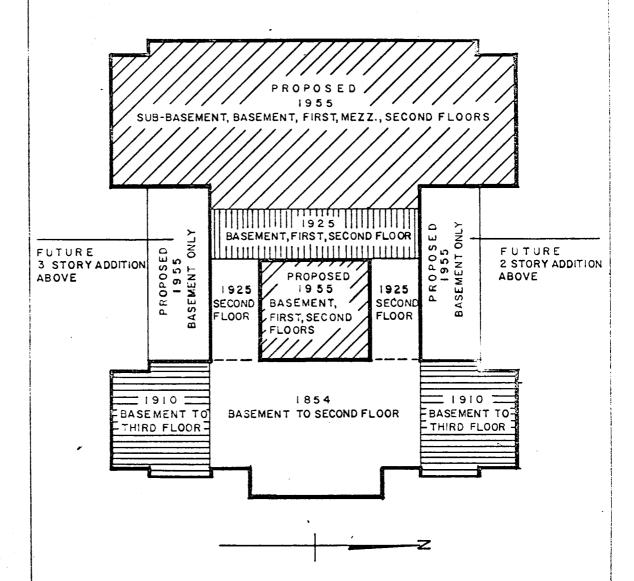
Above is a Plat of Towson Town, with the offer made by certain persons, to give Forty Five Acres of land to the County, to erect a Court House, Jail, Almshouse, and other appropriate buildings for the use of the County, all of which would then be convenient to each other. The central situation of this place—its accessibility from all parts of the County, by Turnplke and other roads, already opened, with a Rail Road about two miles from the spot; Its high and healthy position, with pure water, and an abundance of building materials, evidently point to this place as the proper one, for locating a "County Town" for Baltimore County, and where it will not be put to the expense of making new roads, or moving ITS WELDINGS AT A FUTURE PERIOD.

TOWSON



FIRST COURT HOUSE IN BALTIMORE CITYAT CALVERT AND LEXINGTON STREETS -1769 -

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF COURTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

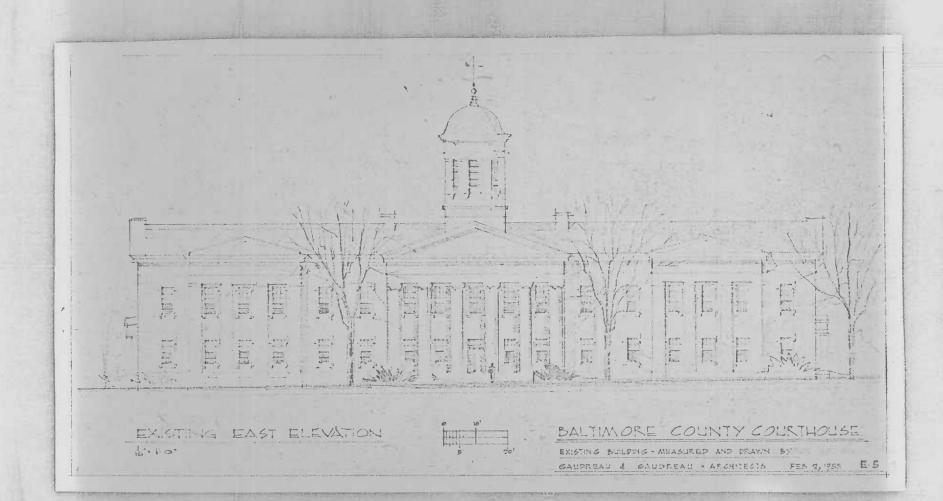


_ FLO	OR AREA OF ADI	DITIONS
YEAR	ADDITIONAL FLOOR AREA IN SQUARE FEET	TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF BUILDING
1854 TO 1910		15,000
1910 TO 1925	14,500	29,500
1925 TO 1955	23,000	52,500
1955 TO 1975*	72,500	125,000
1975 TO 2000**	20,000	:45,000

■ OR WHEN THE POPULATION REACHES 750,000.

** OR WHEN THE POPULATION REACHES 1,000,000.

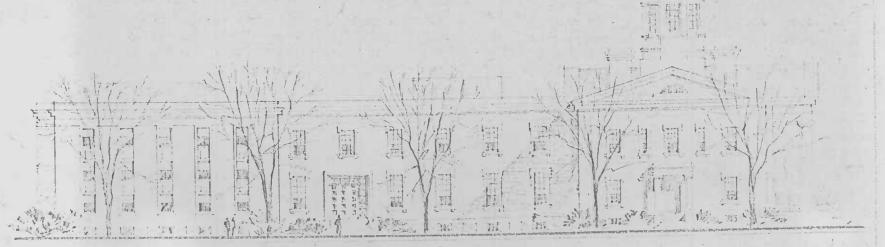
17





7-10

PROPOSED WEST ELEVATION



100 SP 31 F C

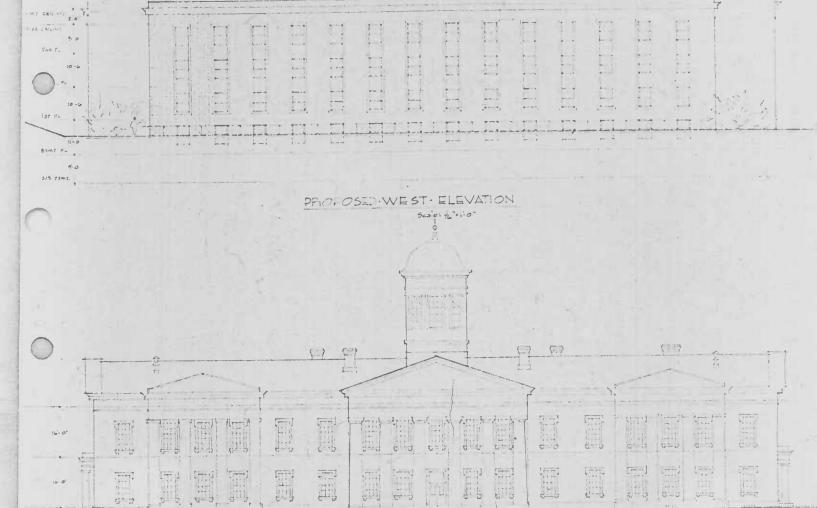
SOUTH THE EVANCOUS PROPERTY SIALLAFT)

BALTIMORE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

ADDITION & ALTERATIO

FOR THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

5' 20'



EXISTING EAST ELEVATION sere: + 1-0'

41 2

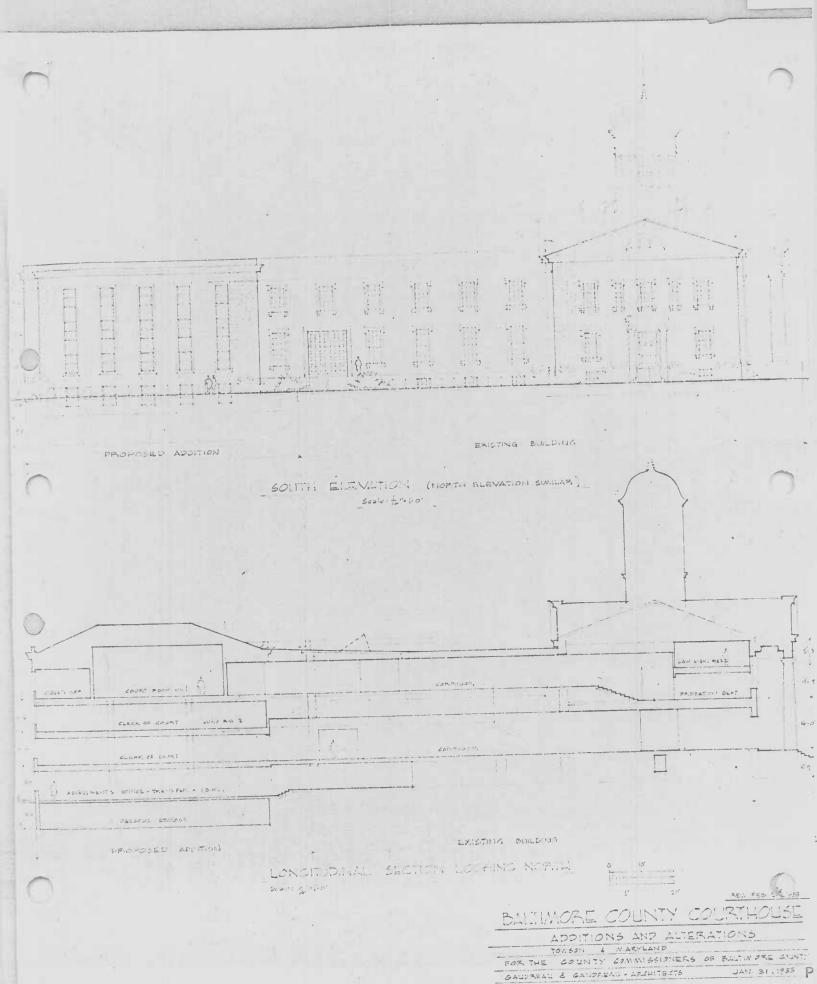


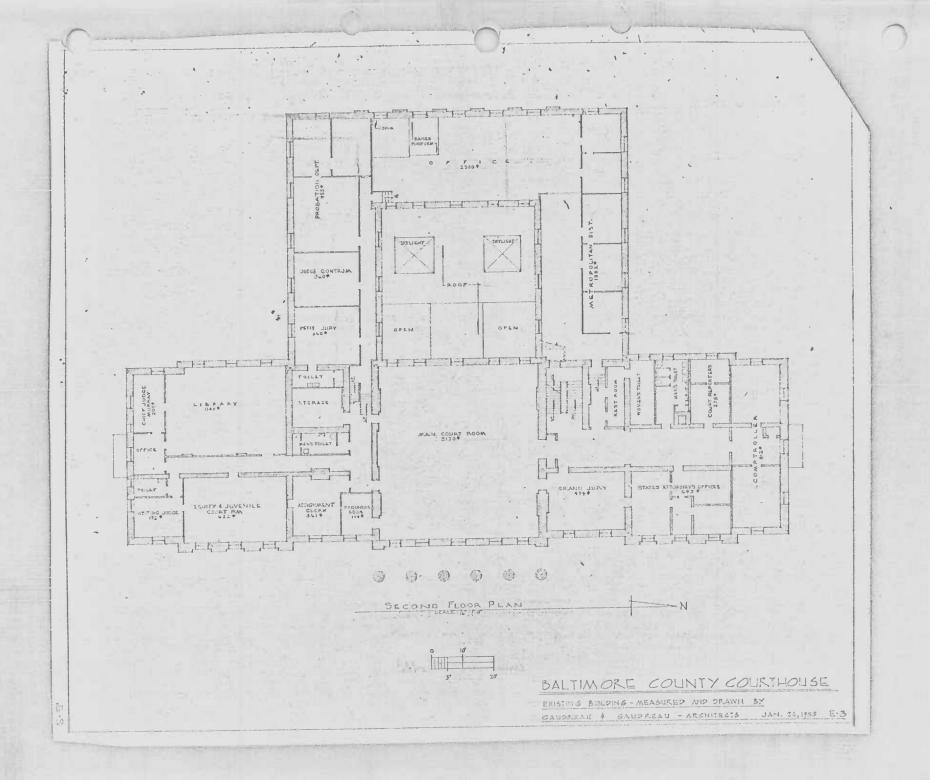
KSV ESS T4,1935

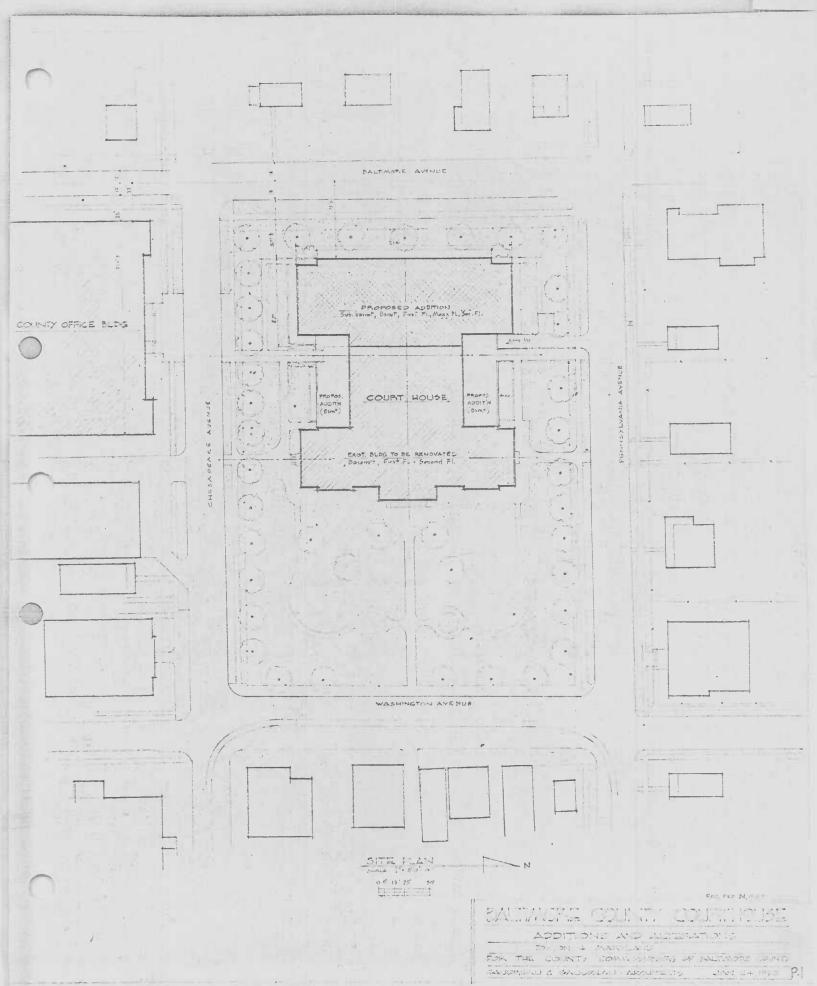
BALTIMORE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

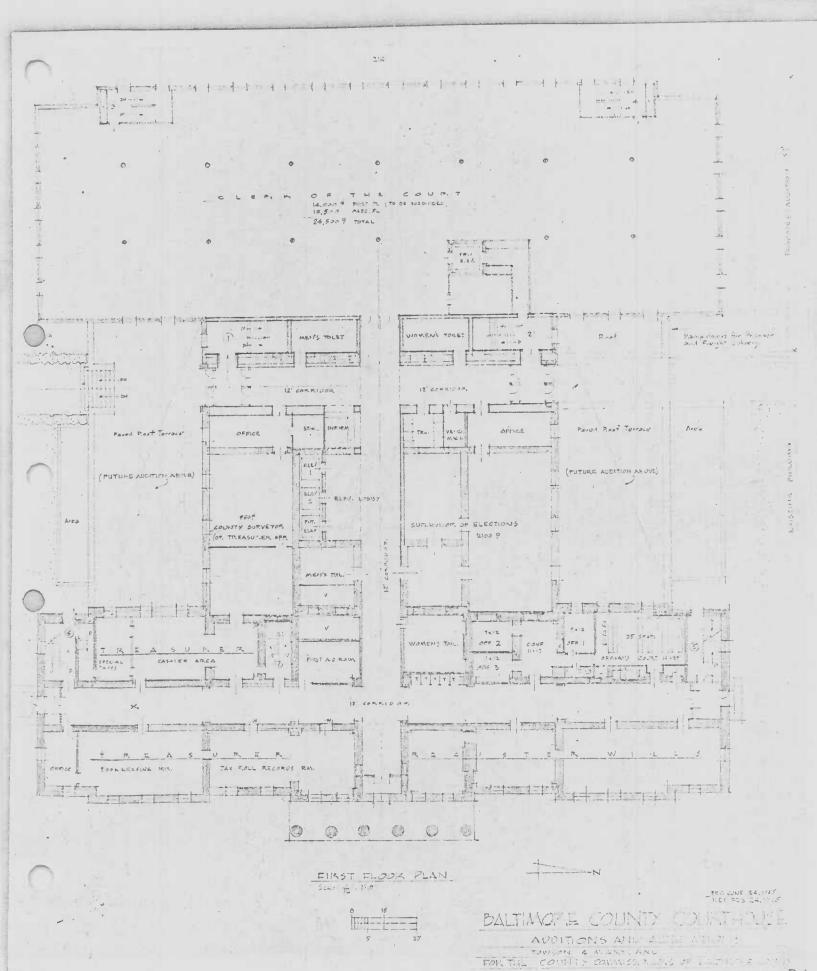
ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS

TOWARN & MARYLAND
FOR THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BALTIMORE COUNT GAUDREAU & GAUDREAU - ARCHITECTS



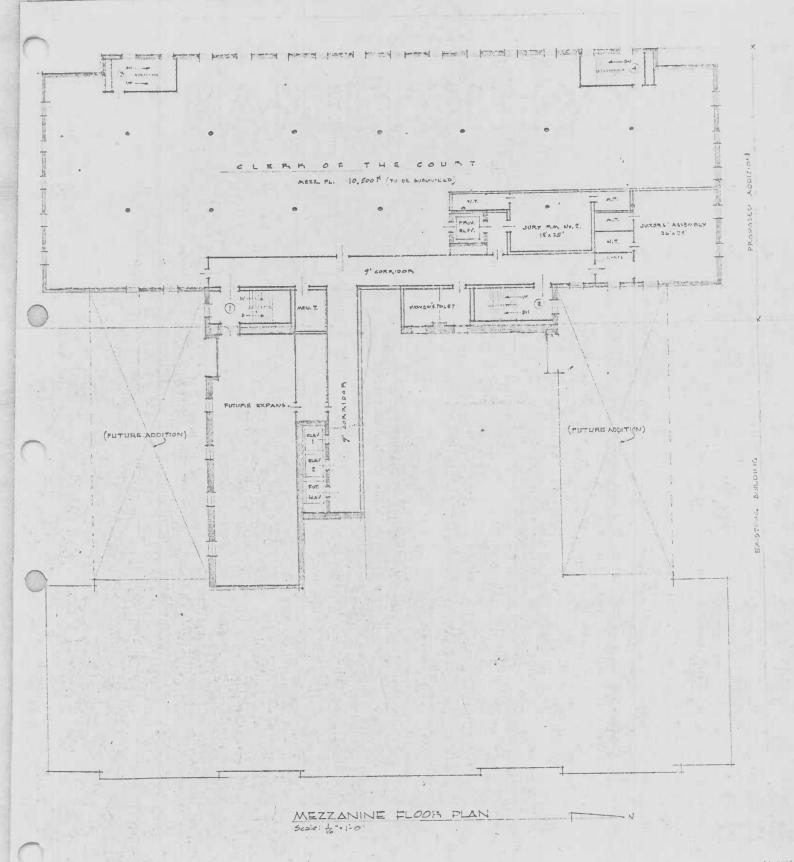






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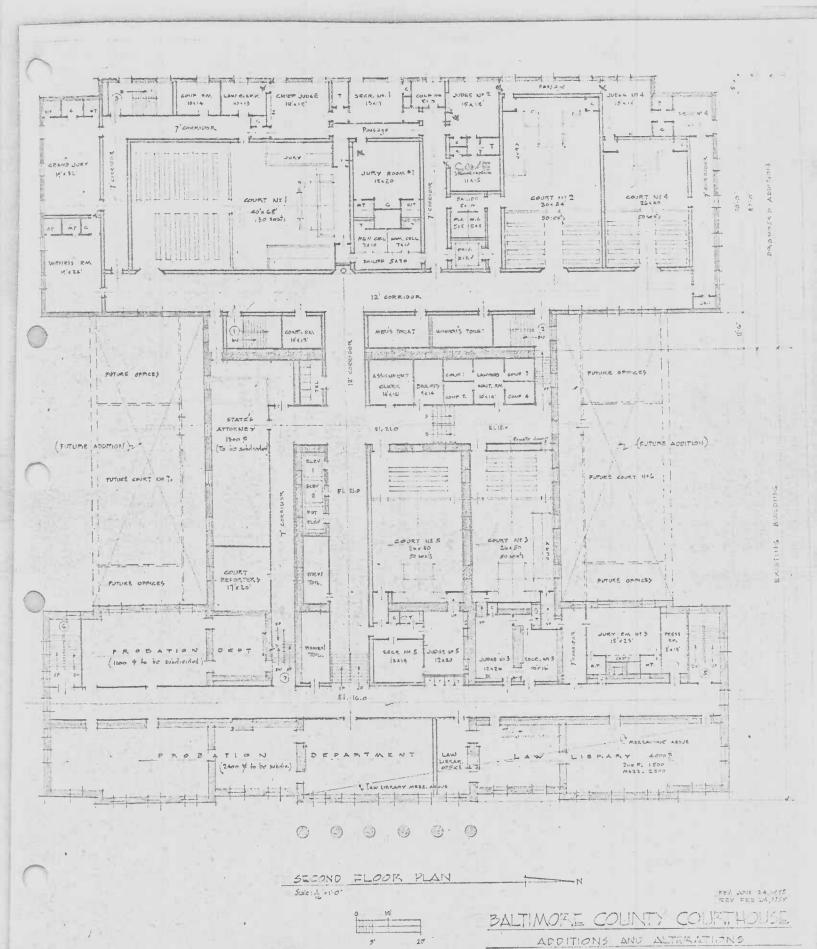


REA 1004 24,1456 REA 120 24,1955

BALTIMORE COUNTY COUPTIONS

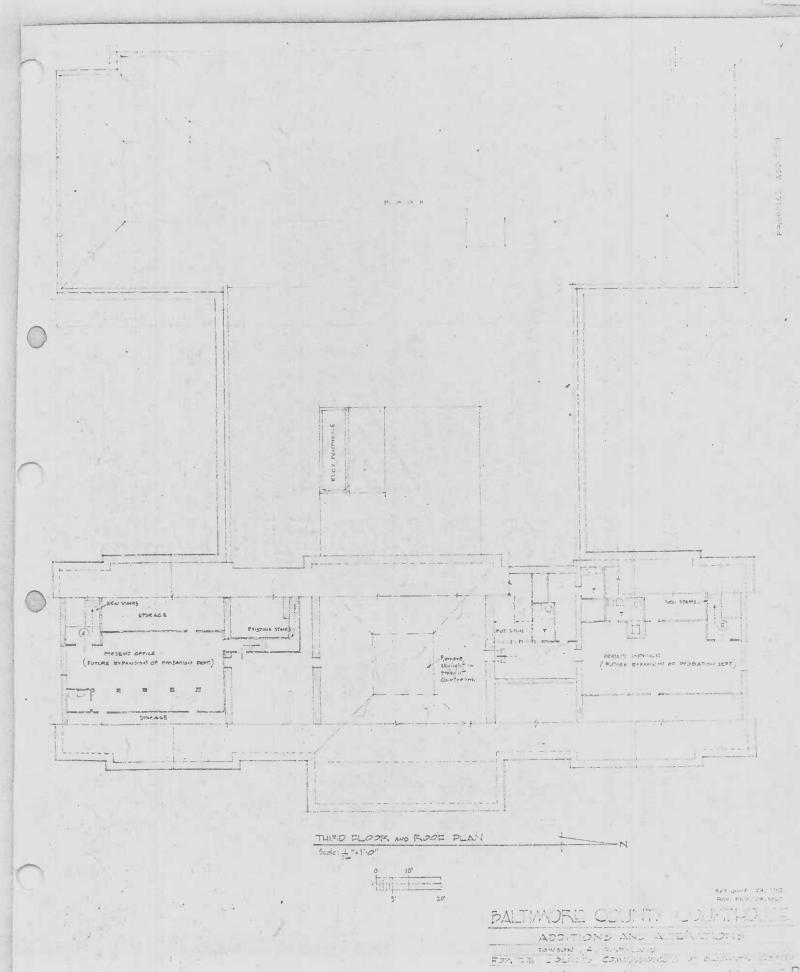
ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS
TOWSON & MARYLAND
FOR THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF EXAMINERS COM

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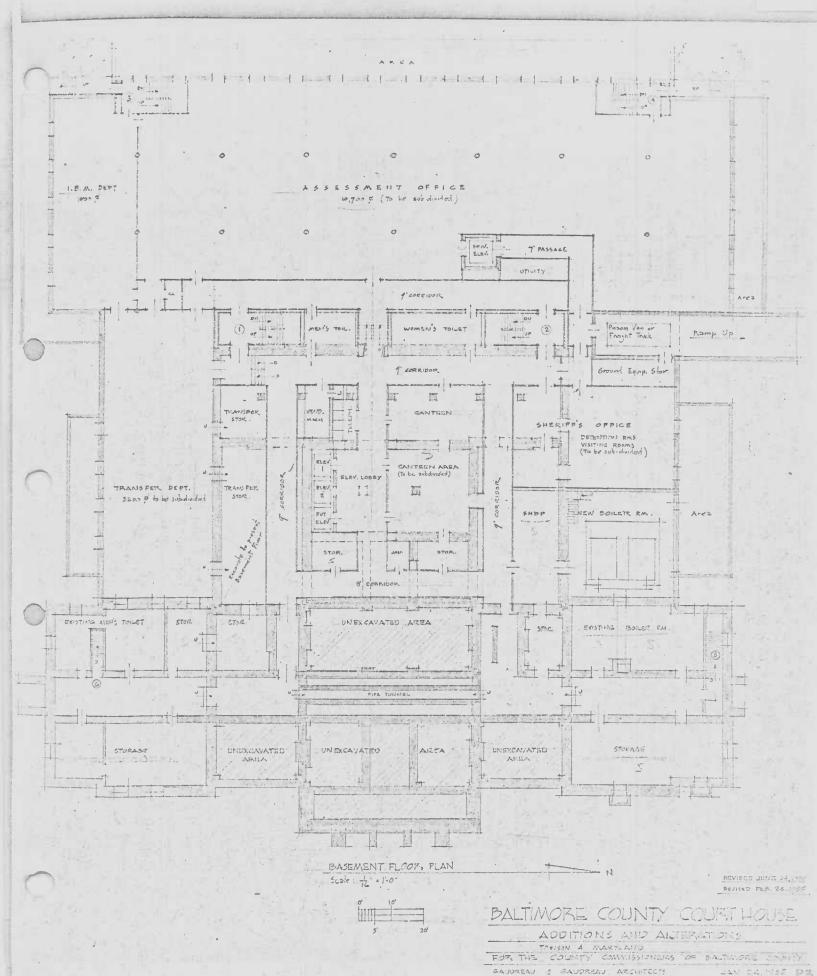


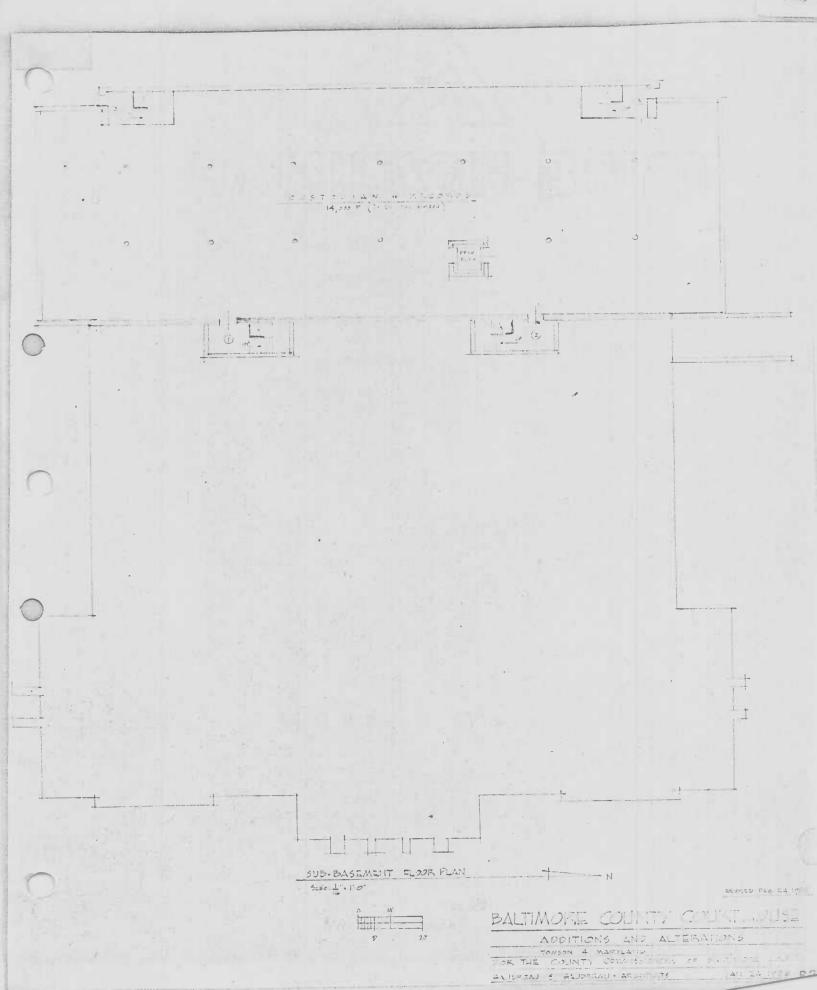
TOWSON 4 MARYLAND
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

GAUDREAU & GAUDREAU - ARCHITELTS

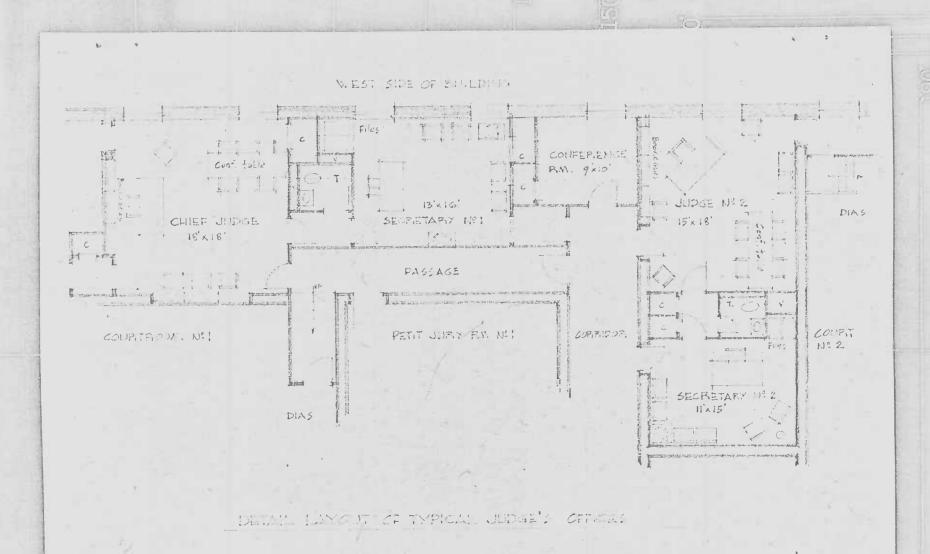


SAUDRON & SAUTHUR - AREA . . .



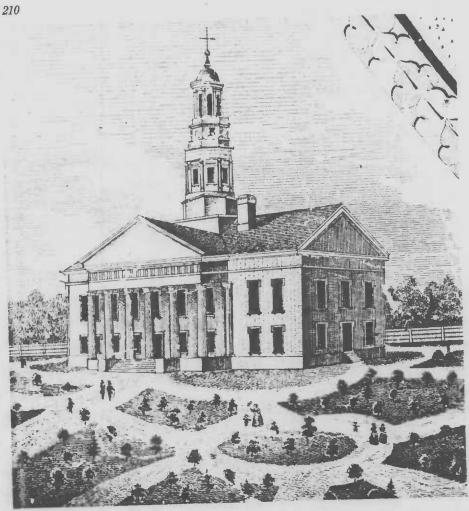






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ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS
TOWARD 4 MADILAND
FOR THE COUNTY COUNTS SONDES OF REALTHORS SO
SANDREAU & SAUDREAU - ARCH 18015 FED 24-121 FEED

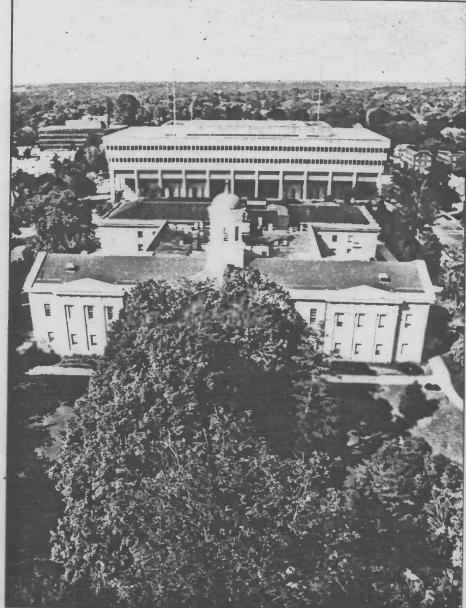


Members of the Baltimore County Bar Association sat for a group portrait in Courtroom 5 in 1926. In the back row, from left to right, are Laban Sparks, John Mays Little, W. Gill Smith, Elmer R. Haile, and William P. Cole Jr. In the third row are David G. McIntosh, Jr., Judge C. Gus Grason, Judge Frank I. Duncan, Judge T. Scott Offutt, Judge Walter W. Preston, and Judge J. Fletcher H. Gorsuch. The second row includes Noah E. Offutt, Ernest C. Hatch, George G. Wheeler, James C. L. Anderson, John D. C. Duncan, H. Courtenay Jenifer, T. Lyde Mason, James P. Kelley, Frank Hays Jacobs, Cornelius Roe, Milton R. Smith, Harry L. Smith, R. Moore Jenifer, and James P. Offutt. In the first row are T. Wilbur Meads, Judge William H. Lawrence, Judge J. Howard Murray, Gwynn Nelson, Lawrence E. Ensor, and George B. Marley.



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Taken from the top of one of the Washington Avenue bank buildings in Towson, this photo shows Dixon and Dixon's 1854 courthouse, the 1910 Baldwin and Pennington north and south wings added onto the original facade, and the 1926 and 1958 additions (making an H shape). Toward the top of the picture looms Gaudreau's massive County Courts Building of the 1970s.





The expanding business community at Hunt Valley was photographed on July 21, 1983. Near the top of the picture, to the right of Interstate 83 are the low buildings of Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn. To their right are the Executive Plaza office towers, and to their right, off by itself, is the world headquarters of the PHH Group. Across Shawan Road from PHH is the low-lying Hunt Valley Mall. On the hill above the mall, and to the left of it, is the Masonic Home of Maryland, originally known as Bonnie Blink, once the Weiskittel estate. It is now a retirement home for Maryland's Freemasons and their families. Across

17

Shawan Road from the mall and to the right of the picture is a C & P Telephone Company office building. The bridge crossing Interstate 83, mid-point in the photo, is Beaver Dam Road.

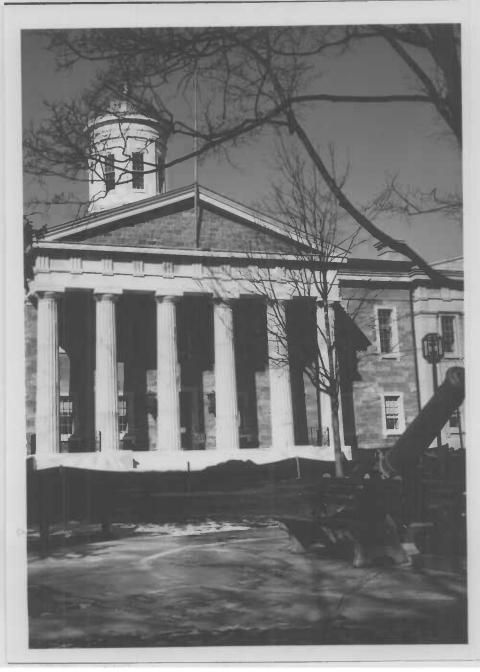
Baltimore County provides a welcoming and cooperative environment for business and industry. An active and effective, forward-looking Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce supports and advises businesses and corporations of all sizes, from the internationally renowned to the fledgling one-or two-person enterprise.

Brooks, Neal A., and Richard Parsons
1988 Baltimore County Panorama. Towson, Maryland: Baltimore County29
Public Library.



Baltimore County Court House Portico Restoration
March 11, 1989

BA-96



Baltimore County Court House: Portico Restoration March 11, 1989



Baltimore County Court House Portico Restoration March 11, 1989



Baltimore County Court House: Pottico Restoration March 11, 1989



BALTO. Co. Court House

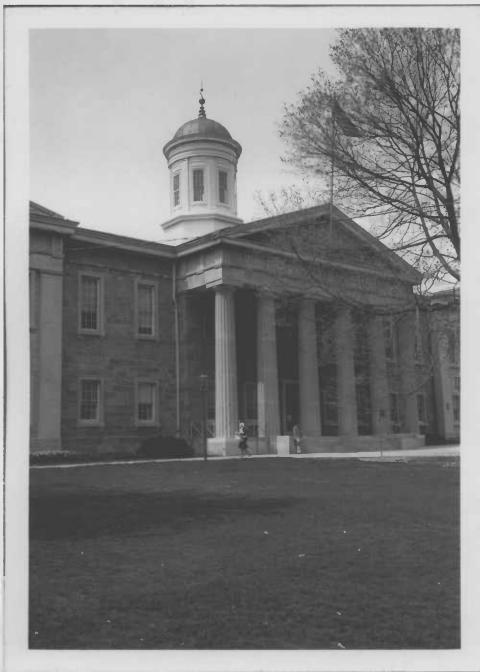
W. NIELD SPRING 78



BA-96

BALTO. Co. COURT HOUSE N. SIDE

W. NIELD SPR 78



BA-96

BACTO CO. COURT HOUSE
E.

W. NIELD SPRING 78



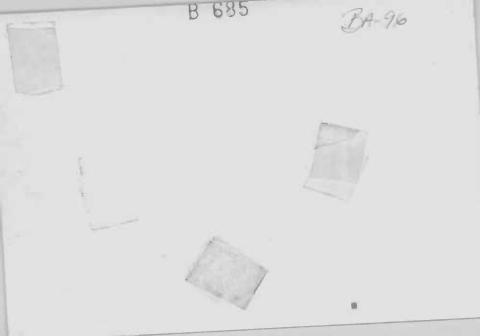
John MCGRAIN - 1971

· BALTIMORE COUNTY COURTHOUSE



B 685 BA- 96







1- BA-96 South entrance of 1910 addition to courthouse Showing classic revival treatment window trim and panes.



10 YEST BA-96 Marker installed on Court House Lawn Summer 1966



BA-96
Baltimore County Courthouse
Earliest Known photo, 1855